

Big Red staying with 4-4 defensive lineup

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth was pleased with the way its brand new 4-4 defense worked last year.

Now all the Big Red must do is find the proper mix of linemen to make it work in 1992.

"We're going to stay with the 4-4 defense," said head coach Dick Roll, beginning his 11th season at the school.

"It was new last year and we were happy with it. We're still learning it and we hope to get better at it.

"The big reason to go to the 4-4 was getting eight men on the line. Right now, we have a lot of good defensive backs, so we can play a lot of man coverages and leave the eight guys up front to stop the run."

If Roll and his staff make the right choices along the line.

"We're not real sure what we're going to do inside yet, but Eric (Felver) is going to be there," said Roll. "We've got the athletes, we just don't know where to play them."

Felver, a junior tackle, will anchor the front line which may also include senior Kris Kucinic and junior John Parrott.

But Kucinic and Parrott could be stood up at inside linebacker if sophomore letterman Bryon Bailey and junior veteran Curt Handshoe are needed elsewhere. "We're not sure who can do

each particular task," said Roll. "Each kid has his strong points but we're not sure how it will all turn out. We just have to give the kids a chance and see what happens."

Handshoe may be the key to the puzzle because he is trying to make the transition from outside to inside linebacker.

"Curt started outside with (Quinn) Sexton last year so the dilemma is where to put him, inside or outside," said Roll. "We're trying to get the guys in the best spots to help the team."

Other candidates along the line include senior letterman Shane White, seniors Scott Gibson and Chad Hughes, junior Korre Boyer, sophomores Brett Hale, Jim Arms and Keith Boyer and freshmen Darrel Adams and Nick Roll, while sophomores Jason Resendez, Rodney Hursh and Merle Richman and freshmen Tim Brown, Andy Classen and Chris Sheely work at inside linebacker.

The Big Red has returning starters to man three of the four outside spots with seniors lettermen Thad Stumbo and George Sexton at defensive end and Quinn Sexton, a junior two-year letterman, at outside linebacker.

The two Sextons are not related.

Sophomore Kitt Wiley and junior Brian Loehn are the front-

runners for the other starting outside linebacker job with sophomores Jason Waddles and David Sheely in reserve. The back-ups at defensive end include junior letterman Jim Dubois, senior Devon Bailey, sophomores Jack Mosley, Greg Mongold, Todd Patrick and David Krietemeyer and freshmen Travis Bailey and Eric Stephens.

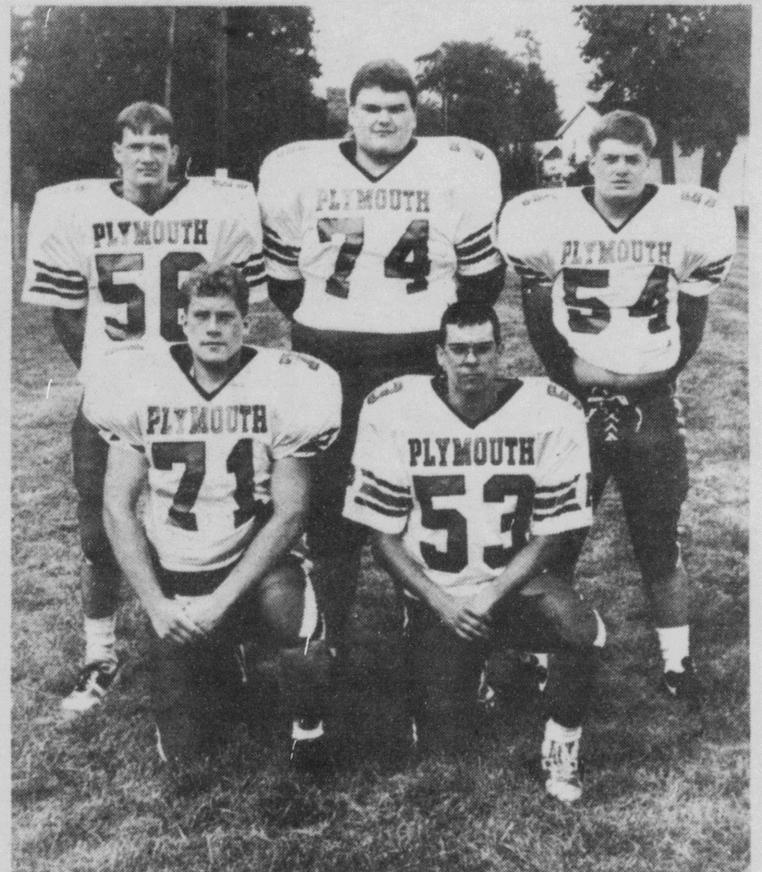
"I'm not worried about our outside guys," said Roll. "They just have to do what they need to do and that is think and react. They all do something well, but now they have to do the whole thing to do the job for us."

The defensive secondary, like the offensive backfield, is the deepest part of the lineup.

Senior Charlie Burton, a two-year letterman, returns to his starting spot at cornerback while junior veteran Ricky Reeder will line up on the other side and sophomore letter winner Greg Davis has the inside track for the starting job at safety.

Also, sophomore safety Chris Slone has caught the eye of the coaching staff while senior letterman Gordy Strom, sophomores John Hass, Jeremy Gasparac and Jim Meador and freshman Bobby Strong round out the list of candidates.

"Last year we didn't have a lot of depth, but Slone, Meador and



Five lettermen return along the line for Plymouth in 1992 including, front row (left to right); Eric Felver (71) and Thad Stumbo. Back row; Jim Dubois (56), Shane White and Kris Kucinic.

Gasparac give us plenty of depth this year," said Roll. "I wouldn't be afraid of using any one of those guys at any time."

Reeder will continue to handle the punting chores for Plymouth in 1992 while Burton is slated to take care of the kicking game. David and Quinn Sexton will line up for punt returns and Meador will be back for kickoffs.

Roll has a pair of assistants on his coaching staff, including newcomer Mike Thompson who

handles the line.

The head coach takes care of running backs and linebackers while coaching veteran Aaron Weltlin works with the wide receivers and defensive back while doubling as Roll's defensive coordinator.

"It's been good," Roll said of working with his small staff. "We're working a coach short, but we're still able to pick up the slack. We also interchange positions and that helps."

South Central has new look, commitment

GREENWICH — South Central has a new head coach, a new helmet design and a new commitment to the weight room.

The combination has Bryan Oney hoping for big things from his first Trojan football team this season.

"I'm very confident we can be competitive in the Firelands Conference this year," said Oney. "Our players have worked very hard in the weight room and on the practice field.

"I'm just trying to instill discipline, desire and commitment in the team."

The hard work in the weight room has already paid dividends to the dedicated players in the form of helmet awards for the Trojans' newly-painted gold helmets with black Michigan stripes.

"The reason we went to that

helmet design was in 1977, coach Bill Lewis had black helmets with white Michigan stripes," said Oney. "Those helmets were real popular with the players and I thought they looked real good.

"I'd also like to think that we're going to play with a Michigan intensity this year."

The 27-year old South Central alumni and Ashland College graduate will get to see if his squad can play like a pack of Wolverines when it opens the regular season Friday night in Lucas.

Oney also begins his head coaching career with 20 lettermen on the 43-man roster, including nine offensive and 12 defensive starters.

"We'll try to mix the pass and run about 50-50," said Oney. "We



Rookie head coach Bryan Oney will build his line with seven returning lettermen back. They include, front row (left to right); Shawn Phillips (89), Shannon Caudill and Brian Kiesel. Back row; Duane Kimball (71), Adam Beekman, Josh Hamons and Brian Shepherd.